

Message Text

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ACTION INR-10

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FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0503
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUCHAREST 4795

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINR, RO
SUBJECT: NEW ROMANIAN AMBASSADOR TO ALBANIA: ALDEA MILITARU

1. ON JUNE 19 ALDEAL MILITARU PRESENTED HIS CREDENTIALS IN TIRANA AS THE NEW ROMANIAN AMBASSADOR TO ALBANIA, REPLACING ION STOIAN. A CAREER PARTY APPARATCHIK WITH NO PREVIOUS DIPLOMATIC EXPERIENCE, MILITARU'S MOST RECENT POSITION HAD BEEN AS FIRST SECRETARY OF ILFOV JUDET (COUNTY), THE RURAL AREA SURROUNDING BUCHAREST. HE WAS REMOVED FROM THAT POST IN THE MARCH 1978 GOVERNMENT SHAKEUP TO MAKE WAY FOR A DEMOTED FORMER MINISTER (BERGHIANU), HOWEVER, AND THE ALBANIAN ASSIGNMENT IS APPARENTLY A SORT OF COMPENSATION PRIZE FOR A DESERVING PARTY WHEEL-HORSE.

2. MIITARU IS PROBABLY IN HIS MID-FIFTIES AND IS ALLEGEDLY OF GYPSY ETHNIC ORIGIN; HIS WIFE IS REPORTEDLY AN ETHNIC HUNGARIAN. AS A YOUNG MAN, HE REPTEDLY WAS A PETROLEUM WORKER AND PARTY ACTIVIST IN THE PLOIESTI AREA, AND WAS SUBSEQUENTLY SENT FOR TRAINING IN PARTY WORK TO MOSCOW. AFTER A SUCCESSFUL STINT AT CENTRAL COMMITTEE HEADQUARTERS UPON HIS RETURN, HE WAS APPOINTED PARTY FIRST SECRETARY FOR THE BRASOV REGION IN SEPTEMBER 1962, A SIGNIFICANT POST FOR SUCH A YOUNG MAN. HE WAS REAPPOINTED IN JUNE 1965, WAS ELECTED TO THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE AT THE NINTH PARTY CONGRESS THE FOLLOWING MONTH, AND THEN WAS
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REASSIGNED TO BUCHAREST AS A SECTION CHIEF AT THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE. AT THIS POINT, HOWEVER, HE MADE A MISTAKE. WORKING AT THE CC UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF FORMER MINISTER OF INTERIOR AND PARTY SECRETARY ALEXANDRU DRAGHICI, CEAUSESCU'S PRINCIPAL RIVAL FOR POWER IN THE PERIOD FOLLOWING THE DEATH OF CHEORGHIU-DEJ IN 1965, MILITARU ATTACHED HIMSELF FIRMLY TO DRAGHICI AND BECAME HIS CLOSE FRIEND AND CONFIDANT. SENSING

WHICH WAY THE POLITICAL WIND WAS BLOWING, HOWEVER, HE JOINED IN THE DENUNCIATION OF DRAGHICI IN A SPECIAL CC PLENARY IN APRIL 1968, AND HIS CAREER HAS BEEN STABLE IF NOT SPECTACULAR EVER SINCE. HE WAS REELECTED TO THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE AT THE PARTY CONGRESSES OF 1969 AND 1974, WAS APPOINTED MINISTER/STATE SECRETARY AT THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE IN DECEMBER 1972 IN CHARGE OF COOPERATIVE FARMS, AND BECAME FIRST SECRETARY OF ILFOV JUDET IN NOVEMBER 1976. HE WAS ALSO ELECTED TO THE GRAND NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (ROMANIA'S RUBBER-STAMP PARLIAMENT) IN MARCH 1975, AND HE WAS CHAIRMAN OF THE ASSEMBLY'S AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE AT THE TIME OF HIS AMBASSADORIAL APPOINTMENT.

3. MILITARY IS NOT PERSONALLY KNOWN TO THE EMBASSY.
AGGREY

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